

DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES, SOUTH-SOUTH SOLUTIONS

E-newsletter of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in UNDP



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1. Microwork Pioneer Transforms Prospects for Poor, Vulnerable

A pioneering technology social enterprise has found a way to connect people around the world to the new digital economy, transforming their lives and providing long-term employment opportunities. It is closing the digital divide in a very practical way, teaching new skills and, most importantly, providing income to the poor and vulnerable.

The San Francisco, USA-based non-profit social enterprise Samasource (samasource.org) uses what it calls microwork – a virtual assembly line of small tasks broken down from a larger project so they can be completed over the Internet – to outsource work to its network of workers around the world.

The tasks in this virtual piecework range from writing to transcribing to organizing online content.

The company organizes the projects using its own online work distribution system connecting workers around the world to the SamaHub in San Francisco. Most of the workers are women, youth and refugees. When they complete their task, it is sent back to the SamaHub in San Francisco where the staff check it and assure its quality. Once approved and completed, the project is returned to the client.

The company was founded in 2008 and draws on experts in “distributed work, economic development, and outsourcing.”

The microwork is divided into three areas: content services, data enrichment and transcription.

Content services can include writing descriptions for online business listings, organizing large databases on information or creating brief descriptions of existing content to make it easier for search engines to find it. “Data enrichment” tackles the vast quantity of information on the Internet that needs to be kept up to date and reliable. It also includes ‘tagging’, where text or images on the Internet need to have appropriate ‘tags’ or labels. And finally, transcription services include digitizing paper documents like receipts or books or transcribing audio and video files for the web.

All these tasks are labour intensive and require high attention to detail. And they are critical to any online business’s success if it wants a reputation for accuracy and consistency.

Samasource is optimistic about its future potential because of the sheer size of the market for business process outsourcing: estimated to be worth over US \$100 billion. What Samasource does, called ‘impact sourcing’ – outsourcing to people in the developing world living in poor or remote communities – is a market worth US \$5 billion, according to Samasource’s website.

It differs from conventional business process outsourcing in a number of respects, including the educational background of the workers. Most conventional outsourcing goes to college graduates in cities in India, China and the Philippines. Impact outsourcing is done by people with at most a high school education.

The digital economy needs these workers to handle the many millions of detailed tasks required to link together information. It is easy to take this for granted because it is hidden from view, but it is what enables the Internet to function and businesses

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to thrive. Samasource provides outsourcing services including content moderation and data entry to clients like LinkedIn, Intuit and the US State Department.

“We bring dignified, computer-based work to women, youth, and refugees living in poverty,” said Samasource’s founder and chief executive officer, Leila Janah.

Janah has a background in development studies and formerly worked for the World Bank. This experience convinced her that much foreign aid was failing to target what poor people are really looking for: a job that pays well.

Samasource sees what it does as work, and not handouts.

It also believes it is changing perspectives, proving people from the poorest places on earth can become trustworthy, hard-working knowledge workers.

The Internet is a unique medium because it transcends borders and smooths contact between people with varying linguistic, cultural and educational capabilities.

“The Internet reduces the friction of collaboration across all of these centres and time zones, and with a highly distributed workforce,” said Janah.

Samasource claims to have paid out US \$1 million in wages to more than 1,500 workers around the world. Ambitiously, it wants to expand this to reach some of the 144 million youth between 16 and 24 living on less than US \$2 a day.

Youth are a particular focus for Samasource. Samasource targets young people who are literate and have received an education but still can’t get a job.

As for the many women employed by Samasource, they were either unemployed or earning poverty-level wages doing precarious work in low-level manufacturing and not building their skills.

Samasource currently has 16 partnerships in Haiti, India, Pakistan, Kenya, Uganda and South Africa. Criteria to work with Samasource includes being in a high-poverty region. Another criteria is for most of the money earned to stay within the region where the work is done and adhere to the standards laid down by Samasource.

Samasource’s success means it has attracted further funding. In December 2011, it was given a US \$1.5 million grant from Google.org – the Google.com search engine’s charity. It has also raised US \$5 million from non-profit investors, including the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation and the eBay Foundation. The challenge for the Samasource model will be to prove, with this new funding, that it can scale its operations to pay out more to its workers than it is taking in to meet its operating costs.

Microwork is turning out to be big work indeed!

LINKS:

1) Crowd-sourcing on Mobile Phones in the Developing World: Watch a You Tube talk by Nathan Eagle on how this works. **Website:** www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvz2foChQYU

2) Mechanical Turk: This is an income-generating tool run by online book sellers Amazon.com. It pays people for spending time online transcribing audio and tagging photos.
Website: www.mturk.com/mturk/welcome

3) SMS Boot Camp: Entrepreneurial Programming and Research on Mobiles run by MIT in Nairobi, Kenya.
Website: <http://www.media.mit.edu/ventures/EPRM/entrepreneurship.html#entrep>

4) Jana (formerly TxtEagle): Inspired by the Sanskrit word for “people”, Jana has created the first large-scale platform to enable global organizations to engage directly with emerging market consumers in over 85 countries via their mobile phones. Jana’s proprietary technology can target and reward an unprecedented 2.1 billion consumers with free mobile airtime in exchange for completing surveys or purchasing products.
Website: <http://jana.com/about-us>

2. African Farming Wisdom Now Scientifically Proven

Increasing the agricultural productivity of Africa is critical for the continent’s future development, and the world’s. Two-thirds of Africans derive their main income from agriculture, but the continent has the largest quantity of unproductive – or unused – potential agricultural land in the world.

This means the continent has the potential to become the world’s new breadbasket - but there is a problem. A report by the International Centre for Soil Fertility and Agriculture (IFDC) found the continent had a “soil health crisis” and that three-quarters of its farmlands were severely degraded (New Scientist). The causes of this crisis include over-use of the same plot of land due to population growth, which prevents farmers moving around, and high fertilizer costs, leading to African farmers using just 10 per cent of the world average on their farms.

But a new study shows that an existing practice by some African farmers could help solve this dilemma if it was adopted by the majority.

At the University of Sydney in Australia, a study has confirmed the effectiveness of ants and termites as a tool

to increase farm yields in dry areas. It found ants and termites in drier climates of the global South improved soil conditions just as earthworms do in northern, wetter and colder climates. Both termites and ants, by burrowing their way through the soil, carve out tunnels that make it easier for plants to shoot their roots outwards in search of water.

In field experiments, ants and termites helped raise wheat yields by 36 per cent by increasing water and nitrogen absorption. This is critical for agriculture in arid climates.

While termites wreak havoc on crops such as maize (corn) and sugarcane, they are very useful for other African crops.

The Australian research found termites infuse nitrogen into the soil. Nitrogen is usually dumped on fields with expensive fertilizers that are subject to market fluctuations. The termites have nitrogen-heavy bacteria in their stomachs, which they excrete into the soil through their faeces or saliva.

The research also found termites helped with reducing water wastage.

This research reinforces what has long been known to some African farmers. Long-held farmer tradition in parts of West Africa uses termites to enhance soil by placing wood on the earth to attract them. By burying manure in holes near newly planted grains, farmers in Burkina Faso attract termites to the soil.

In Malawi, bananas are planted near termite mounds to encourage the creatures. In southern Zambia, soil from termite nests is harvested and used as top soil on agricultural land.

If more farmers adopted this practice, Africa could simultaneously address its chronic malnutrition and hunger problem and contribute to the world's food needs. As the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI) found, "With 60 percent of the world's uncultivated arable land and low crop yields, Africa is ripe for a 'green revolution' like those that transformed agriculture in Asia and Brazil."

McKinsey estimated that Africa's agricultural output could increase from US \$280 billion a year now to US \$500 billion by 2020 and as much as US \$880 billion by 2030.

The UN recently declared that the world's population has reached 7 billion. That is many mouths to feed and presents Africa with a dilemma and an opportunity.

And as urban growth accelerates across the global South – the world is now a majority urban place – there is a huge profit to be made from providing food to growing urban populations.

The time to act is now, as there have been reports from African farmers that they are seeing harvests declining by 15 to 25 per cent. And the picture gets gloomier: many farmers think their harvests will drop by half over the next five years.

Given that there are 2,600 different species of termites now recognised in the world (UNEP) and with over 660 species, found in Africa, it is by far the richest continent in termite diversity (Eggleton 2000) and they are proof that an affordable solution is close at hand to the current crisis.

LINKS:

1) World Vegetable Center: The World Vegetable Center is the world's leading international non-profit research and development institute committed to alleviating poverty and malnutrition in developing countries through vegetable research and development. **Website:** <http://www.avrdc.org>

2) Songhai Centre: a Benin-based NGO that is a training, production, research, and development centre in sustainable agriculture. **Website:** <http://www.songhai.org/english>

3) Marketing African Leafy Vegetables: Challenges and Opportunities in the Kenyan Context by Kennedy M. Shiundu and Ruth. K. Oniang. **Website:** http://www.ajfand.net/Issue15/PDFs/8%20Shiundu-IPGR2_8.pdf

4) 2050: Africa's Food Challenge: Prospects good, resources abundant, policy must improve: A discussion paper from the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). **Website:** <http://www.fao.org/wsfs/forum2050/wsfs-background-documents/issues-briefs/en>

5) African Alliance for Capital Expansion: A management consultancy focused on private sector development and agribusiness in West Africa. **Website:** <http://www.africanace.com/v3>

6) *Ants and termites increase crop yield in a dry climate* by Theodore A. Evans, Tracy Z. Dawes, Philip R. Ward and Nathan Lo, Nature Communications 2, Article number: 262

7) *Integrating Ethno-Ecological and Scientific Knowledge of Termites for Sustainable Termite Management and Human Welfare in Africa* by Gudeta W. Sileshi et al, Ecology and Society, Volume 14, Number 1. **Website:** <http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol14/iss1/art48>

8) State of the World 2011: Innovations that Nourish the Planet. **Website:** <http://www.worldwatch.org/sow11>

9) *Soil health crisis threatens Africa's food supply*. **Website:** <http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn8929-soil-health-crisis-threatens-africas-food-supply.html>

3. Vietnam Launches Low-cost, High-Quality Video Game

The creative economy offers huge opportunities to the countries of the global South. With the proliferation of new technologies – mobile phones, digital devices, personal computers with cheap or free software, the Internet – the tools to hand for creative people are immense. This begins to level the playing field and allows hardworking and talented people in poor countries to start to compete directly with those in wealthy countries.

One case of this dynamic at work is the computer and video games industry. Once, they were only created by ‘first world’ nations like Japan, the United States and the United Kingdom. And then came South Korea, as its prosperity increased through the 1980s and 1990s. And then China got in on the game. And India.

And now innovators in Vietnam are using the medium to make money, and tell a story from a distinctly Vietnamese perspective. And that story is the long-running Vietnam wars that engulfed the country, from the 1950s through the 1960s until 1975 when the last of the United States’ helicopters left Saigon, then the capital of South Vietnam.

Emobi Games (<http://emobigames.vn>) from Hanoi, unified Vietnam’s current capital, uses the motto “Enjoy challenges.” Launched in 2011 by founder and director Nguyen Tuan Huy, it has created 7554, a game that places players in the shoes of a Vietnamese soldier during the independence war against the French. Cleverly, it also comes at a competitive price: US \$12.

The game’s name refers to May 7, 1954, the day the French army in Dien Bien Phu surrendered to the Vietnamese People’s Army. This led to the end of the European colonial power’s occupation of its Indochinese colonies. The high death toll and sacrifice from the wars with France and the United States still resonate in the country, and the game reflects this.

A young team of 20 developers worked on the project for three years. It cost the company an estimated US \$802,748 to complete. It was extensively researched to ensure historical accuracy.

“Dien Bien Phu is a great victory that we are proud of. That day, 7th of May 1954, is a symbol of our strength,” Huy told Ars Technica (<http://arstechnica.com>).

“I think it is similar to what Americans feel when they celebrate July 4th. Independence is very important and something worth fighting for. It is also something worth honouring.”

The game is the end product of an intense struggle to prove critics and sceptics wrong. Many doubted the company could deliver a product that could compete with the more established players. The video game market for first-person shooters – where the player uses a weapon to engage in first-person combat – has been transformed in the last decade. Many games are highly sophisticated products akin to major films. The Call of Duty (callofduty.com) franchise is a good example. These games have elaborate graphics and story concepts, often use professional actors and come with high-cost, high-publicity marketing campaigns to back up game launches.

The money at stake is significant: the global video games market is estimated to be worth US \$65 billion in 2011 (Reuters). Game makers Activision Blizzard, makers of Call of Duty, had an annual revenue of US \$4.8 billion.

On its website, Emobi proudly takes on the doubters: “We are a very young company in Vietnam, currently we focus on one task: Building a successful PC Video Game for the Vietnamese. Most Vietnamese don’t believe that Vietnam can produce (a) PC Video Game.

“We, the young people, think about this as a challenge, and want to overcome that. Maybe we will fail, maybe we will succeed. But that’s not important. (It is) Important that it must be time for the Vietnamese Game.”

Huy admits it was a struggle to make the game.

“Video games, films or any kind of entertainment in our country must adhere to certain standards,” explains Huy. “Entertainment must not be too violent or too sexy. Our government policy is stricter than other countries, especially when compared to Western countries.”

Vietnam regulates gaming in various ways including limiting how long people can play online and the opening hours for Internet cafes.

Out of a population of over 86 million people (World Bank) it is believed Vietnam has 12 million video gamers: a substantial market in the country alone. They play games from around the world and increasingly are willing to pay for legal licenses. This is a key development, since getting gamers to pay represents a revenue stream. With revenue, players in the global South can contribute to the building of their home-grown businesses to become big players.

“The video game industry is just in its infancy,” said Huy. “We only have four studios that develop major games. Most work on online games. There are not many people who work in game development. Those that do are self-taught. There are no universities that provide education in games development. We learn by doing, failing and doing it again until we get it right.”

Viewing warfare through non-Western eyes is part of the game’s unique selling point, Huy says.

“American gamers have not been exposed to many war games where they play as a soldier who is not of American or British background. I think some may find this perspective refreshing.”

Huy said that “7554 may give some gamers a new perspective. But what is most important is that we create a game that is fun to play.

“We think we have created a game that FPS (first person shooter) shooter fans will enjoy. The price point is low so that will hopefully allow more people to play the game. I think gamers understand that a good game can come from anywhere in the world. I think gamers are willing to experience different cultures through games, so long as the experience is enjoyable.”

The 7554 game is scheduled to be launched in the United States and France in February 2012 for personal computers.

In the future, the company hopes to raid history for more battle scenarios to create new games.

“Unfortunately there have been many battles fought, so we have a full history to pull from in order to create games,” Huy said.

LINKS:

1) Animation Xpress Asia Pacific: A website packed with interviews and resources for the animation community.
Website: <http://www.axapac.com>

2) How to make video games: An online website with step-by-step resources to get started.
Website: <http://www.make-video-games.com>

3) Changing Dynamics of Global Computer Software and Services Industry: Implications for Developing Countries: A report from UNCTAD on how computer software can become the most internationally dispersed high-tech industry. **Website:** <http://www.unctad.org/templates/webflyer.asp?docid=1913&intitemid=2529&lang=1>

4) Southern Innovator: A new magazine launched by UNDP's Special Unit for South-South Cooperation. The first issue's theme is mobile phones and information technology. **Website:** www.southerninnovator.org

4. Lagos Traffic Crunch Gets a New Solution

Around the world, traffic congestion is often accepted as the price paid for rapid development and a dynamic economy. But as anyone who lives in a large city knows, there comes a tipping point where the congestion begins to harm economic activity by wasting people's time in lengthy and aggravating commuting, and leaving commuters frazzled and burned out by the whole experience.

According to the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, 95 per cent of congestion growth in the coming years will be in developing countries. Even in developed countries like the United States, in 2000, the average driver experienced 27 hours of delays (up seven hours from 1980) (MIT Press). This balloons to 136 hours in Los Angeles.

Developing countries are seeing vehicle numbers rise by between 10 and 30 per cent per year (World Bank). In economic hotspots, growth is even faster.

Lagos, Nigeria, the throbbing business hub of West Africa's most populous nation, has a network of over 2,700 km of roads with a vehicle density of 740 vehicles per kilometre (E.I. Bello). All those cars consume over 85 per cent of the petroleum products imported into the country – a costly expense for a country that actually imports oil. All this driving is necessary because the city has no rail or sea mass transit system and all movements of people and goods are by road.

Nigeria suffers from the irony of being a country that makes 95 per cent of its export earnings and 80 per cent of its revenue from oil, yet has to import most of its fuel because its refineries are constantly breaking down.

The overwhelming majority of mega-cities are now located in developing countries, including sprawling conurbations such as São Paulo, Brazil (18.8 million inhabitants in 2007), Delhi, India (15.9 million), and Manila, Philippines (11.1 million). By 2015 Lagos will have 12.8 million inhabitants and by 2025, it is estimated it will have 16.8 million citizens. That will be a lot of cars and frustrated people trying to get around.

One project trying to alleviate the pain of a daily commute in the city is called Traffic (Traffic.com.ng). The computer application, or 'app', has a live feed of traffic on its homepage, collecting information from a wide variety of sources: the web, mobile phones and SMS (short message service) text messages sent in by mobile telephone. The service is also looking to extract information from microblogging site Twitter (twitter.com).

The service says it aims to “reduce stress on Lagos road by providing up-to-the-minute traffic status in the state.”

It uses the powerful concept of ‘crowdsourcing’, in which a large group of people contributes to solve a problem by combining the technological power of mobile phones and the Internet. These two technologies mean it is possible to solve problems in real time and draw on a very large group of people spread out over a wide geographical area.

So, how does it work? A user can go to the homepage and click “View Traffic Report From” and see live data streaming in. If the user wants to see traffic conditions in a particular area, they type in the road and area in a box on the page and click to see the report.

Those who are stuck in a traffic jam and want to alert others can send an SMS message with the keywords to 07026702053.

The Traffic app came under scrutiny by the anonymous blogger Cherchez la Curl, whose blog is about “celebrating African women and natural hair”:

“It’s no Einstein-worthy revelation to say that solving Lagos’ traffic problem (and, more generally, improving Nigeria’s poor transportation network) is one of the keys to sustaining growth and economic development in Nigeria,” the blog said.

The blog’s author found the service was still in its early days: “While the idea is a fantastic application of modern technology to developing Africa, the only problem I see is that it seems like no-one is sending through traffic alerts! On a recent visit to the site, the alert stream was empty of alerts save for a few tweets. It’s a shame as this service would be extremely handy as a counterpoint/band-aid whilst government sorts out the root cause of the traffic.”

It sounds like it is still early days for the Traffic app and Lagos residents will be its harshest critics.

LINKS:

- 1) LagosMet.com: An Internet bulletin board offering rolling updates on Lagos traffic and security reports. Users can also post their reports. **Website:** <http://lagosmet.com>
- 2) eNowNow: A website offering live updates on Lagos traffic congestion. **Website:** <http://traffic.enownow.com>
- 3) SENSEable City: A project at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s SENSEable City Laboratory to use the new generation of sensors and hand-held electronics to change how cities are understood and navigated. This includes creating real-time maps of cities that can then be used to help with avoiding traffic congestion and other problems. **Website:** <http://senseable.mit.edu>
- 4) Mobility 2001: World Mobility at the End of the Twentieth Century and its Sustainability published by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. **Website:** www.wbcsd.org
- 5) Lagos Traffic Crowmap: A mix of user-contributed reports on the traffic conditions in Lagos. **Website:** <https://lagostraffic.crowdmap.com/main>
- 6) A study of Urban Traffic Management – A Case Study of Lagos State Traffic Management Authority by E. I. Bello et al., 2009. **Website:** www.scientific.net/AMR.62-64.599
- 7) Cities for All: An interview on book seeking to find solutions to the congested cities of the South. **Website:** <http://globalurbanist.com/2010/08/24/cities-for-all-shows-how-the-worlds-poor-are-building-ties-across-the-global-south>

5. New Kenyan Services to Innovate Mobile Health and Farming

Kenya is home to a vibrant innovation culture centred around mobile phones. While not all the services launched will be successful, the flurry of start-ups shows the country has the right combination of technical skills, bright ideas and cash to make a go of new services.

With the number of mobile phone users leaping 28 per cent in 2011, to reach 25 million subscribers out of a population of 39 million (Reuters), the country has a large market for mobile phone-based services. Kenya also has 10 million people with access to the Internet, up from 4 million in 2009.

Two issues critical to the well-being of Kenyans – health services and farming – are being tackled by new mobile phone services. One is a service being run and marketed by a major player in the market, and the other, by a small start-up.

Statistics indicate that in Kenya, one doctor attends to over 10,000 patients. The World Health Organization recommends a ratio of 1:600. There are just over 7,500 licensed medical facilities in the country.

Safaricom, Kenya’s largest telecoms operator, is trying to take the pressure off overstretched medical and health systems with a new mobile health service. Its 24-hour health advice and referral service is called ‘Daktari 1525’ and lets people call and speak with a doctor or an expert to get advice on any health issue. The number 1525 refers to the dialling code which links users directly to the Safaricom call centre. Daktari 1525 is available to the 18 million Safaricom subscribers.

Safaricom has partnered with ‘Call-a-Doc’ to launch the tool. The new service hopes to relieve outpatient departments in government hospitals and health facilities with its advice and referrals. The Daktari 1525 service does not prescribe a treatment to the callers, avoiding the legal risks of remote diagnosis.

It also offers home remedies and health tips on healthy lifestyles. In an emergency, users can also dial Daktari 1525 if there is Safaricom network coverage.

The partnership is divided between Safaricom and Call-a-Doc. Safaricom handles all the mobile phone network infrastructure, the call centre facility and the marketing of the service. Call-a-Doc takes care of recruiting doctors.

But how does the service use the doctors’ time well? The shifts are designed to surge the number of doctors to 15 during peak times, falling to as few as four doctors during off-peak times. The doctors work on a part-time basis and

there are currently 50 employed by the service.

Not everyone is convinced the service will work.

“It is a good attempt to venture into the field; however we would like to caution the practitioners involved that they must remain ethical and must at all times uphold professional confidentiality,” Medical Practitioners and Dentist Board Chief Executive Officer Daniel Yumbya told Capital News.

Another new service based in the capital, Nairobi, is trying to shake up the world of farming. Its new mobile phone service, “MFarm: connecting farmers” (<http://mfarm.co.ke/>) calls itself “a transparency tool for Kenyan farmers”. It bills itself as a “factory of ideas” looking to find “creative agribusiness solutions.” The service is a paid-for web platform that helps farmers keep track of prices in the capital, Nairobi, and claims to have signed up 3,000 farmers in the first year of operations.

The service offers crop prices by sending a text to the numbers 3535 if the user gives the crop location required. As an example, the user texts “price crop location” “price maize Nairobi”. Users can also sell their crops, or buy farm supplies.

It also allows farmers to group sell their crops by getting together with other small-scale farmers. This is a crucial service because it allows the smaller farmer to sell into the wholesale markets where prices are better. Farmers can also group buy, benefiting from lower prices by buying bulk from suppliers. It cleverly offers several ‘plans’ to suit budgets. There is an ‘Eco Plan’ at the low end, a mid-range ‘Pro Plan’, and a bells-and-whistles option, ‘Biz Plan’.

The service also benefits from its connections with iHub Nairobi (<http://ihub.co.ke/pages/home.php>), the buzzing “open space for technologists, investors, tech companies and hackers in Nairobi.” It provides a strong support network to turn to when problems arise.

It seems as if it would be a mistake to enter the African market with any new tech solution without first checking out the scene in Nairobi.

LINKS:

1) iHub Nairobi: Nairobi’s Innovation Hub for the technology community is an open space for the technologists, investors, tech companies and hackers in the area. The space has a focus on young entrepreneurs, web and mobile phone programmers, designers and researchers. **Website:** <http://ihub.co.ke/pages/home.php>

2) EPROM: Entrepreneurial Programming and Research on Mobiles aims to foster mobile phone-related research and entrepreneurship. **Website:** <http://www.media.mit.edu/ventures/EPROM>

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Check out our website archive: www.southerninnovator.org

Our new magazine, Southern Innovator, has launched: the first issue’s theme is mobile phones and information technology. Please contact the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation if you would like a copy (copies) of the new magazine. E-mail: ssc.info@undp.org



Called “...a terrific tour de force of what is interesting, cutting edge and relevant in the global mobile/ICT space...”

The second issue’s theme is youth and entrepreneurship and will soon be launched. Contact us about opportunities to sponsor this issue.

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Also check out our SouthSouth Expo: 2011's Expo was in Rome, Italy.

Website: www.southsouthexpo.org

BOOKS

Lost Colony: The Untold Story of China's First Great Victory over the West by Tonio Andrade,

Publisher: Princeton University Press. **Website:** www.press.princeton.edu

China's Regulatory State: A New Strategy for Globalization by Roselyn Hsueh,

Publisher: Cornell University Press. **Website:** www.cornellpress.cornell.edu

A Liberal World Order in Crisis: Choosing between Imposition and Restraint by Georg Sorensen,

Publisher: Cornell University Press. **Website:** www.cornellpress.cornell.edu

Living in the Endless City edited by Ricky Burdett and Deyan Sudjic,

Publisher: Phaidon. The city is the subject of the 21st century. All over the world, populations are shifting towards urban centres. Living in the Endless City depicts an authoritative survey of cities of today and the prospects for our urban future of tomorrow. 36 contributors from across Europe, South America, China, Africa and the U.S. set the agenda for the city - detailing its successes as well as its failures.

Website: <http://www.urban-age.net/publications/living-in-the-endless-city>

Consumptionomics: Asia's Role in Reshaping Capitalism by Chandran Nair,

Publisher: Infinite Ideas. **Website:** www.amazon.com

World 3.0: Global Prosperity and How to Achieve It by Pankaj Ghemawa,

Publisher: Harvard Business School Press. **Website:** www.amazon.com

How the West Was Lost: Fifty Years of Economic Folly – And the Stark Choices Ahead by Dambisa Moyo,

Publisher: Allen Lane. The new book from challenging thinker Moyo, it argues the West needs to start following China's economic model or face economic ruin. **Website:** www.amazon.com

The China Miracle: Development Strategy and Economic Reform by Justin Yifu Lin,

Publisher: The Chinese University Press. **Website:** www.eurospanbookstore.com

Africa in the Global Economy by Richard E. Mshomba,

Publisher: Lynne Rienner. **Website:** www.eurospanbookstore.com

The Recession Prevention Handbook: Eleven Case Studies, 1948-2007 by Norman Frumkin,

Publisher: M. E. Sharpe. **Website:** www.eurospanbookstore.com

The Roller Coaster Economy: Financial Crises, Great Recession and the Public Option by Howard J. Sherman,

Publisher: M. E. Sharpe. **Website:** www.eurospanbookstore.com

Global Slump: The Economics and Politics of Crisis and Resistance by David McNally,

Publisher: PM Press. Global Slump analyzes the global financial meltdown as the first systemic crisis of the neoliberal stage of capitalism. It argues that – far from having ended – the crisis has ushered in a whole period of worldwide economic and political turbulence. In developing an account of the crisis as rooted in fundamental features of capitalism, Global Slump challenges the view that its source lies in financial deregulation.

Website: https://secure.pmpress.org/index.php?l=product_detail&p=271

Aftershock: Reshaping the World Economy After the Crisis by Philippe Legrain,

Publisher: Little, Brown. **Website:** www.philippelegrain.com/aftershock

Creative Ecologies: Where Thinking is a Proper Job by John Howkins,

Publisher: UQP. **Website:** www.creativeeconomy.com/think.htm

The Global Crisis: The Path to the World Afterwards by Frank Biancheri,

Publisher: Anticipolis. **Website:** www.anticipolis.eu/en_index.php

The Age of Empathy: Nature's Lessons for a Kinder Society by Frans de Waal,

Publisher: Crown. **Website:** www.amazon.com

Arrival City by Doug Saunders,

Publisher: Pantheon. A third of humanity is on the move. History's largest migration is creating new urban spaces that are this century's focal points of conflict and change — centres of febrile settlement that will reshape our cities and reconfigure our economies. **Website:** <http://arrivalcity.net>

China: And the End of Poverty in Africa – Towards Mutual Benefit? by Penny Davis,

Publisher: Diakonia and the European Network on Debt and Development.

Website: www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats_New/Reports/Kinarapport_A4.pdf

Globalization and Competition: Why Some Emergent Countries Succeed while Others Fall Behind by Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira,

Publisher: Cambridge University Press.

Website: www.networkideas.org/book/jan2010/bk12_GACL.htm

Tourism and Poverty Reduction: Pathways to Prosperity by Jonathan Mitchell and Caroline Ashley,

Publisher: Earthscan. **Website:** www.earthscan.co.uk/?TabId=92842&v=497073

State of the Field in Youth Enterprise, Employment, and Livelihoods Development,

Publisher: Making Cents International. **Website:** www.youthenterpriseconference.org

Urban World: A New Chapter in Urban Development,

Publisher: UNHABITAT.

Website: www.scribd.com/doc/31244004/Urban-World-A-New-Chapter-in-Urban-Development

Building Decent Societies: Rethinking the Role of Social Security in Development edited by Peter Townsend,

Publisher: International Labour Office. **Website:** www.ilo.org/publns

World of Work Report 2010: From One Crisis to the Next?

Publisher: International Labour Office. **Website:** www.ilo.org/publns

From the Great Recession to Labour Market Recovery: Issues, Evidence and Policy Options edited by Iyanatul Islam and Sher Verick,

Publisher: International Labour Office. **Website:** www.ilo.org/publns

PAPERS AND REPORTS***Illicit Financial Flows from the Least Developed Countries: 1990–2008 UNDP-Commissioned Report***

Website: <http://www.financialtaskforce.org/2011/05/12/undp-commissioned-report-from-global-financial-integrity-%E2%80%99Illicit-financial-flows-from-the-least-developed-countries-1990-2008%E2%80%9D-now-available>

Information Economy Report 2010: ICTs, Enterprises and Poverty Alleviation

Publisher: UNCTAD.

Website: <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/webflyer.asp?docid=13912&intltemID=2068&lang=1>

State of China's Cities: 2010/2011: Better City, Better Life

Publisher: UNHABITAT. **Website:** www.scribd.com/doc/39882697/State-of-China-s-Cities-Report-2010-2011

Still our Common Interest: Commission for Africa Report 2010

Publisher: Commission for Africa. **Website:** www.commissionforafrica.info/2010-report

World Economic Outlook Update: Restoring Confidence without Harming Recovery

Publisher: IMF. **Website:** www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2010/update/02/index.htm

Trade and Development Report, 2010: Employment, Globalization and Development

Publisher: UNCTAD. **Website:** www.unctad.org/Templates/webflyer.asp?docid=13740&intltemID=2068&lang=1

Empowering People and Transforming Society: The World Economic Forum's Technology Pioneers 2011

Publisher: World Economic Forum. **Website:** www.scribd.com/doc/35953976/Technology-Pioneers-2011

The Emerging Middle Class in Developing Countries

Publisher: OECD. **Website:** www.oecdilibrary.org/oecd/content/workingpaper/5kmp8lncrns-en (PDF - 2.09 mb)

The BRICSAM Countries and Changing World Economic Power: Scenarios to 2050 by Manmohan Agarwal,

Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation. Working Paper: Shifting Global Power. Africa and Mexico has the potential to change the balance of economic power in the world. This paper analyzes this potential building on developments in these economies over the past four decades in the context of the evolution of the world economy. **Website:** www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_39-web-1.pdf

The Implications of China's Ascendancy for Africa by Hany Besada,

Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation. Working Shifting Global Power. This paper examines the extent to which China's engagement with Africa has produced mutual benefits for both and whether Africa is reaping the necessary benefits required for poverty alleviation and economic development.

Website: http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_40-web.pdf

Europe-North Korea: Between Humanitarianism and Business? Edited by Myungkyu Park, Bernhard Seliger and Sung-Jo Park,

Publisher: LIT. **Website:** [www.gpic.nl/EU - North Korea book.pdf](http://www.gpic.nl/EU-North%20Korea%20book.pdf)

Global Economic Decoupling Alive and Well

Emerging economies decouple from the US, come closer to Europe.

Website: <http://www.marketoracle.co.uk/Article23670.html>

The Global Financial Crisis and Africa's "Immiserizing Wealth"

Research Brief, United Nations University, Number 1 2010.

Website: www.unu.edu/publications/briefs/policy-briefs/2010/UNU_ResearchBrief_10-01.pdf

Where Western business sees 'risk', Chinese entrepreneurs see opportunity by Dr Jing Gu. Dr Gu and her China based team from the China-Africa Business Council (CABC) and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) have had direct access to private Chinese companies working in Africa, including 100 in-depth interviews with Chinese firms and business associations and officials in both China and Africa.

Website: www.ids.ac.uk/go/news/where-western-business-sees-risk-chinese-entrepreneurs-see-opportunity

Can China Save Western Economies From Collapse?

Website: www.marketoracle.co.uk/Article19484.html

China's economic invasion of Africa

Website: www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/feb/06/chinas-economic-invasion-of-africa

Africa begins to make poverty history: US economists challenge conventional view that the continent is a basket case

Website: www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/mar/03/africa-makes-poverty-history

ON THE WEB

BLOGS AND WEBSITES

mDirectory: The mDirectory is the most comprehensive database of information on mobile tech for social change on the Web: case studies, mobile tools, research, and how-to guides. **Website:** <http://mobileactive.org/directory>

Global Development: Launched in September 2010, this new website from the Guardian newspaper will track progress on the MDGs, encourage debate on its blogs, offer a rich store of datasets from around the world, and feature monthly podcasts and resources for schools. **Website:** www.guardian.co.uk/global-development

Latameconomy Website Launches

Latameconomy.org is the latest evolution of the annual Latin American Economic Outlook report, essentially bringing its trusted, high quality content into the digital age. Its wide country coverage and methods of analysis are essential for anyone seeking to understand the economic, social and political developments of Latin American countries.

Website: www.latameconomy.org/en

International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs)

International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs) is a pluralist network of progressive economists across the world, engaged in research, teaching and dissemination of critical analyses of economic policy and development.

Website: www.networkideas.org

OECD: Tackling the economic crisis website

The global economic crisis is entering a new phase amid signs of a return to positive growth in many countries. But unemployment is likely to remain high and much still needs to be done to underpin a durable recovery. This website will track the recovery. **Website:** www.oecd.org/document/24/0,3343,en_2649_201185_41707672_1_1_1_1,00.html

The Global Urbanist: News and analysis of cities around the world: planning, governance, economy, communities, environment, international. **Website:** www.globalurbanist.com

ICT Update: A bimonthly printed bulletin, a web magazine, and an accompanying email newsletter that explores innovative uses of information technology in agriculture and rural development in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. **Website:** <http://ictupdate.cta.int/en/Regulars/Perspectives/%28Issue%2956>

Youth-Inclusive Financial Services (YFS-Link) Program

Website: The first space for financial services providers (FSPs) and youth-service organizations (YSOs) to gather, learn and share about youth-inclusive financial services. **Website:** www.yfslink.org

Triple Crisis Blog: Global Perspectives on Finance, Development and Environment

Website: <http://triplecrisis.com>

Full Disclosure: The Aid Transparency Blog: A Devex blog, written by members of the international community.

Website: www.devex.com/en/blogs/full-disclosure

Africa Portal: An online knowledge resource offering researchers and opinion leaders a forum to share their insights on Africa and publish their work on pressing areas of concern to policymakers and the public. It aims to fill the gap in accessibility to research and information on policy issues on the continent.

Website: www.africaportal.org

African Economic Outlook: A unique online tool that puts rigorous economic data, information and research on Africa at your fingertips. A few clicks gives access to comprehensive analyses of African economies, placed in their social and political contexts. This is the only place where African countries are examined through a common analytical framework, allowing you to compare economic prospects at the regional, sub-regional and country levels.
Website: www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en

Africa Renewal: The Africa Renewal information programme, produced by the Africa Section of the United Nations Department of Public Information, provides up-to-date information and analysis of the major economic and development challenges facing Africa today. **Website:** www.un.org/ecosocdev/geninfo/afrec

Timbuktu Chronicles: A blog by Emeka Okafor

With “a view of Africa and Africans with a focus on entrepreneurship, innovation, technology, practical remedies and other self-sustaining activities.”

Website: <http://timbuktuchronicles.blogspot.com>

AfriGadget: AfriGadget is a must-read for African invention junkies. They are always on the look out for ingenious innovation that is new or a repurposing of existing technology in a new way, interesting in the sense that the story captures the imagination of others, inspiring others to see solutions in uncommon ways, practical ideas that solve problems in a demonstrable way, and entrepreneurs who are inventing new products or solutions.

Website: www.afrigadget.com

Silicon Savanna: Mobile Phones Transform Africa

Website: www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,2080702,00.html

INTERESTING BLOGGER

White African: About high-tech mobile and web technology change in Africa.

Website: <http://whiteafrican.com>

SOCIAL MEDIA

Africa Entrepreneurship Platform

This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally, driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas. **Website:** www.sacca.biz

AfriGadget on Facebook: ‘Solving everyday problems with African ingenuity’.

Website: www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2402629579

START-UP FUNDING

The SEED Initiative

Hosted by the UN Environment Programme’s World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the SEED Initiative is a global partnership for action on the Green Economy. The annual SEED Awards help to develop the most promising social and environmental start-ups in emerging economies and developing countries.

Website: <http://unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=2647&ArticleID=8798&l=en>

Crowdfund: A South African-based venture fund for technology start-ups in Africa.

Website: www.crowdfunding.co.za

Global Social Benefit Incubator: A US \$20,000 Bottom of the Pyramid Scholarship

Offered by Santa Clara University’s Global Social Benefit Incubator, it selects 15 to 20 enterprises from developing countries and provides an eight-month mentoring process. This ends with a 10-day process in Santa Clara, where entrepreneurs work with their mentors.

Website: www.socialledge.org

The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award

This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Five pioneers will receive US \$50,000 to re-invest in their business. It is open to for-profit businesses that provide high wages to their workers and that operate in sustainable ways.

Website: <http://pioneersofprosperity.org/index.php>

Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition

Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of £2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the ‘world’s first global youth development competition’.

Website: www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/oba/se/ybd

Echoing Green: Social Entrepreneurs Fund

Website: www.echoinggreen.org

Commonwealth Teams up with Private Equity Firm to Deliver up to \$400 Million in Investment in Africa

Small and medium enterprises across Africa are set to benefit from a multimillion dollar investment fund set up by private equity firm Aureos Capital (www.aureos.com/) with the Commonwealth Secretariat's assistance. The Aureos Africa Fund, launched in November following feasibility and due diligence studies funded by the Secretariat, will provide long-term capital and support for promising and successful businesses across the continent.

Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General Ransford Smith, speaking at the launch of the fund at the Marriot Hotel in London, UK, on 2 November 2009, hailed the fund's launch. He warned that investment in Africa was "critical" if recent development gains were not to be lost amid the current worldwide recession. "This fund has the potential to make a real contribution to Commonwealth countries in Africa, by helping ordinary businesses to reach their potential and boost much needed growth and jobs across the continent," he said.

Website: <http://www.thecommonwealth.org/news/215560/021109aureoscapital.htm>

The Africa Land Fund

The fund has raised almost €2 billion from an American pension fund to invest in African agriculture. The Africa Land Fund, created by the UK-based hedge fund Emergent Asset Management, wants to raise a total of €3 billion and is canvassing a range of investors. It plans to invest in agricultural land and livestock, including African game, which will be sold on to private reserves and safari parks. The fund also plans to develop bio fuel crops on marginal land, saving prime agricultural acreage for crops to feed people.

Email: info@eaml.net

Tel: +44 (0) 1428 656 966

Fax: +44 (0) 1428 656 955

Challenge

InnoCentive (www.innocentive.com/) is a challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable. It is an open marketplace where anybody with a problem can post it, and rewards for effective solutions stretch up to US \$100,000. They use rigorous intellectual property protection so ideas are not stolen without credit being given to the inventor.

Website: www.rockfound.org/about_us/news/2007/0720first_seeker.shtml

VIDEO

Forum for the Future: Compelling animated videos exploring the hard choices of an urbanizing world and the need to promote sustainable development and environmental harmony.

Website: <http://www.youtube.com/user/forumforthefuture96>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about?
Then send details to: developmentchallenges@googlemail.com.

2012

Earth Summit 2012: Towards a World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2012

Rio, Brazil (TBC 2012)

The United Nations General Assembly agreed to a new Earth Summit in December. The Summit will be in 2012 and will be hosted by Brazil. The themes are the Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, the institutional framework for sustainable development, emerging issues and a review of present commitments. This site will keep you abreast of all the developments and latest news.

Website: earthsummit2012.org

JANUARY

World Economic Forum

Davos, Switzerland (25-29 January 2012)

The World Economic Forum is an independent international organization committed to improving the state of the world by engaging business, political, academic and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

Website: weforum.org

FEBRUARY

PlastIndia 2012: World's Third Largest International Plastics Exhibition and Conference

New Delhi, India (1-6 February 2012)

The Foundation is dedicated towards national progress through plastics. The key focus of the Foundation is to facilitate export led growth of the Indian plastic industry and help boost export business volumes and revenues.

Website: www.plastindia.org

Feeding the World: The Economist Conference

Geneva, Switzerland (8 February 2012)

By 2050, the global population will surpass 9 billion people. At the same time, the world's agricultural systems will be increasingly challenged by water scarcity, climate change and volatility, raising the risk of production shortfalls. Economist Conferences are launching an inaugural Feeding the World summit, to deliver fresh insight into solving the critical food challenges. Gathering progressive experts from the fields of agribusiness, policy, international agencies, science and the NGO community, you'll be able to participate in panel debates and discussions, led by editors from The Economist Group.

Website: cemea.economistconferences.com/event/feeding-world

Business Perspective on Sustainable Growth: Preparing for Rio+20

New York City, USA (14-16 February 2012)

KPMG International will host an invitation only Summit that will address one of the fundamental challenges of our time: driving sustainable business growth in a resource-constrained world. Business Perspective on Sustainable Growth: Preparing for Rio+20, organized in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Global Compact and the World Business Council on Sustainable Development, will provide business and policy leaders with an important forum to identify and prioritize key sustainability issues.

Website: www.kpmg.com

Global Forum on Competition

Paris, France (16-17 February 2012)

The 11th OECD Global Forum on Competition will focus on price volatility in commodities as well as on international co-operation in cartel investigations. Forum participation is by invitation only and restricted to government representatives or selected invitees.

Website: oecd.org/document/0/0,3746,en_40382599_40393118_48963648_1_1_1_1,00.html

16th Edition of the Addis Ababa International Trade Fair

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (23-29 February 2012)

Addis Chamber International Trade Fair offers a unique platform for the business houses by offering the best solutions that are sure to bring in a lot of success to the visitors coming from different sectors. The presentations and learning classes are aimed to give the attendees a brief idea of the displayed modernized products. The exhibitors also demonstrate some of the products to make the buyers have brief knowledge about the salient features that are added to the products.

Website: addischamber.com/news&articles/newsDe.php?nid=279&tname=

Morocco Investors' Summit 2012

Casablanca, Morocco (23-24 February 2012)

The ultimate gateway to doing business and investing in the Maghreb Countries.

Website: www.euroconvention.com

MARCH

World Water Forum

Marseilles, France (12-17 March 2012)

Every three years since 1997, the World Water Forum engages the imagination, innovation, skills and know-how to advance the cause of water.

Website: worldwaterforum6.org/en

Joint Africa-EU Strategy Meeting

Brussels, Belgium (14 March 2012)

Website: africa-eu-partnership.org

Young People, Farming & Food: The Future of the Agrifood Sector in Africa

Accra, Ghana (19-21 March 2012)

The conference will critically examine, from both research and policy perspectives: Dominant and alternative framings and narratives, and recent empirical data, relating to how young people engage with the agrifood sector in Africa (as producers, entrepreneurs, employees, consumers and citizens); The dynamics of change in different components of the agrifood sector and the implications of these dynamics for young people; The implications for young people of alternative policy approaches to the development of the agrifood sector.

Website: nepad.org/conferences/young-people-farming-food-future-agrifood-sector-africa

China's Emergence as a Market Economy: Achievements and Challenges

Beijing, China (20-21 March 2012)

The forum focuses on China's urbanisation and its challenges.

Website: oecd.org/china

World Water Day

Geneva, Switzerland (22 March 2012)

International World Water Day is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. An international day to celebrate freshwater was recommended at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The United Nations General Assembly responded by designating 22 March 1993 as the first World Water Day. Each year, World Water Day highlights a specific aspect of freshwater.

Website: unwater.org/worldwaterday

8th South-East European Congress and Exhibition on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Sofia, Bulgaria (28 March 2012)

The event will be the most significant meeting point for business and knowledge exchange in the Region of South-East Europe. The participation is a great opportunity for establishment of new partnerships on a global scale.

Website: eeandres.viaexpo.com/en/exhibition

MARCH

World Economic Forum on Latin America 2012

Puerto Vallarta, Mexico (16-18 April 2012)

Latin America is notable for its stability and innovative social, agriculture and renewable energy achievements. As such, the region is providing new models to address the future course of world affairs.

Website: www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-latin-america-2012

African Conference on Measuring and Fostering the Progress of Societies

Rabat, Morocco (19-21 April)

The African Conference on Measuring Well-Being and Fostering the Progress of Societies is one of a series of regional conferences being conducted in preparation for the 4th OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policies, to be held in New Delhi in October 2012. The Conference is jointly organised by the OECD Development Centre and the Moroccan High Planning Commission (HCP) in collaboration with the OECD, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

Website: www.oecd.org

Global Water Summit 2012

Rome, Italy (30 April to 1 May 2012)

From Wall Street to the streets of Athens, Cairo and Tripoli, the message is clear: this is not business as usual. World events - financial, climatic, revolutionary - will have a lasting and unavoidable impact on the way the world of water works.

Website: www.watermeetsmoney.com

MAY

IWA World Congress on Water, Climate and Energy

Dublin, Ireland (13-18 May 2012)

A global network for water professionals: The International Water Association (IWA) is the global network of 10,000 water professionals spanning the continuum between research and practice and covering all facets of the water cycle. The Congress will explore the topics of resilient and sustainable cities with a focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation. **Website:** iwa-wcedublin.org

JUNE

World Economic Forum on East Asia 2012

Bangkok, Thailand (20 May to 1 June 2012)

The 10 member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) together form a region of strategic and economic importance with a combined population of over 600 million and a nominal GDP exceeding US\$ 1.8 trillion. With its ASEAN Economic Blueprint, the bloc has established concrete targets to form a single market and production base by 2015.

Website: www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-east-asia-2012

World Economic Forum on Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia 2012

Istanbul, Turkey (4-6 June 2012)

The pace and complexity of global change in recent years have been unprecedented, with Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia emerging as a key mega-region of the future. The World Economic Forum on Europe, the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia will therefore convene over 1,000 leaders in Istanbul, Turkey, to catalyse new partnerships for growth and human development.

Website: weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-europe-middle-east-north-africa-and-central-asia-2012

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 Rio+20

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (20-22 June 2012)

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) is being organized in pursuance of General Assembly Resolution 64/236 (A/RES/64/236). The Conference will take place in Brazil on 20-22 June 2012 to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in Rio de Janeiro, and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg. It is envisaged as a Conference at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government or other representatives. The Conference will result in a focused political document.

Website: www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/about.html

JULY / AUGUST

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about?
Then send details to: developmentchallenges@googlemail.com

SEPTEMBER

Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2012

Tianjin, People's Republic of China (11-13 September 2012)

The Annual Meeting of the New Champions is the foremost global business gathering in Asia. After five years, it is widely known as the Summer Davos – reflecting the “spirit of Davos” that for more than four decades has meant openness, collegiality and frank, yet friendly, exchange among leaders from business, government, academia, civil society and media.

Website: www.weforum.org/events/annual-meeting-new-champions-2012

OCTOBER

4th OECD World Forum on “Statistics, Knowledge and Policies” – Measuring Well-being and Fostering the Progress of Societies

New Delhi, India (16-19 October 2012)

The goal of the 4th OECD World Forum on “Statistics, Knowledge and Policies” is to assess progress in implementing the Istanbul Declaration (2007), to share results and lessons learned from work undertaken by OECD and other organizations, and to give impetus to concrete measurement programmes based on existing national and regional statistical capacities, mechanisms and tools.

Website: www.oecd.org/document/47/0,3746,en_2649_33715_49312751_1_1_1_1,00.html

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER

Have an event you would like the South-South community to know about?
Then send details to: developmentchallenges@googlemail.com

AWARDS AND FUNDING

World Summit Youth Award

The international contest for young people using the Internet and mobiles to take action on the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Website: www.youthaward.org

Grand Challenges Canada: Request for proposals

Grand Challenges Canada is pleased to announce a new initiative in its Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health grand challenge. It's called Saving Brains. Its goal is to unlock potential in children and dramatically transform lives in the developing world.

The money to fund this program comes from the Development Innovation Fund. In Budget 2008, the Government of Canada committed \$225 million CAD over five years to the Development Innovation Fund, to support the best minds in the world in a collaborative search for solutions to global health challenges.

For the Request for Proposals:

Website: http://www.grandchallenges.ca/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Request_for_Proposals-Saving_Brains_EN.pdf

Zayed Future Energy Prize

The world is in desperate need of innovative solutions to create a new, sustainable energy future. No one knows who or where the next great energy solution will come from. Solutions and technologies that could change the world are being developed globally, and the \$2.2 million Zayed Future Energy Prize, managed by Masdar in Abu Dhabi, recognizes and rewards innovation, leadership, and long-term vision in renewable energy and sustainability.

Website: www.zayedfutureenergyprize.com

Philips Liveable Cities Award

Philips is looking for individuals and community or non-government organizations and businesses with ideas for “simple solutions” that will improve people's health and well-being in a city to enter the Philips Liveable Cities Award. To help translate these ideas into reality, three Award grants totalling €125,000 are on the line. One overall winning idea from any of the three categories outlined below will receive a grant of €75,000, while the two additional ideas will receive grants of €25,000.

Website: www.because.philips.com/livable-cities-award/about-the-award

Piramal Foundation in India

Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.

Website: www.piramalprize.org

Special Award for South-South Transfer – winners announced!

UN-HABITAT, the Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF) and the UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation are pleased to announce the winner of the Housing and Urban Development South-South Transfer Award, a special joint initiative which seeks to recognise housing and urban development practices that have been successfully transferred to other countries in the global South. The winner of the Housing and Urban Development South-South Transfer Award is **Un Techo Para mi País (A Roof for my Country)**, Chile, awarded for mobilising thousands of youth volunteers and transferring its innovative approach to 19 countries across Latin America.

The aim of the award is to identify, provide visibility, and honour those who have successfully shared their projects and approaches internationally, thereby increasing the impact of the initiative.

The winning practice receives US\$15,000 to further transfer the awarded practice to other communities in developing countries. **Website:** www.southsouthexpo.org

South-South Experience Exchange Facility

Supported by Mexico, China, India, Denmark, Spain, The Netherlands, and the U.K. and now Colombia, the South-South Experience Exchange Facility is a multi donor trust fund that promotes the idea that developing countries can learn from the successes of other developing countries in overcoming similar challenges. In the past 12 months, the trust has given out 35 grants to countries for learning activities ranging from working with at risk youth in the Caribbean to outsourcing IT services in Africa.

Website: www.southsouthcases.info

African Writers Fund

Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

Website: http://www.trustafrica.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=91&Itemid=90&lang=fr

Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme

Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

Click here for more information

or contact:

namstct@vsnl.com,

namstct@bol.net.in,

apknam@gmail.com

US\$250,000 for Best Lab Design

AMD and Architecture for Humanity have announced a prize of \$250 000 for the best design for a computer lab that can be adapted and implemented in third-world countries.

The Open Architecture Prize is the largest prize in the field of architecture and is designed to be a multi-year program that will draw competition from design teams around the world.

Website: www.architectureforhumanity.org

PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana

The University of Ghana (www.ug.edu.gh) has been awarded a project support grant by the Alliance for a Green Revolution (www.agra-alliance.org) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

Website: www.acci.org.za/Default.asp?nav=Home&idno=10

Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition

Is a social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

Website: <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in>

TRAINING

JOBS AND CAREERS

Weitzenegger's International Development Job Market: **Website:** www.weitzenegger.de/new/jobmarket.php

Global Knowledge Initiative

The Global Knowledge Initiative seeks to build global knowledge partnerships between individuals and institutions of higher education and research. It seeks to help partners access the global knowledge, technology, and human resources needed to sustain growth and achieve prosperity for all."

Website: www.globalknowledgeinitiative.org

Exporthelp - Promoting and supporting access to the European market

The European Commission runs a database for the explicit support of market players in developing countries who want to bring their products to the EU market. The database gives an overview on the EU's preferential trade regimes established for developing countries as well as lists all tariffs, taxes and other requirements for goods imported into the EU.

Website: <http://exporthelp.europa.eu>

Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects.

Website: www.devex.org

Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans

Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, Africacareerguidance.com is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organisation that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and résumé preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.

Website: www.africacareerguidance.com

African Diaspora Skills Database

This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.

Website: www.diaspora-centre.org/NEWSLETTER/Database

Aid Workers Network (AWN)

Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with

other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.

Website: www.aidworkers.net

Bizzlounge

Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.

Website: <http://bizzlounge.com>

Business Action for Africa

Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organisations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.

Website: <http://businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com>

Business Fights Poverty

Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.

Website: <http://businessfightspoverty.ning.com>

Business in Development Network (BiD)

The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.

Website: www.bidnetwork.org

Zunia

By Development Exchange, it offers news, publications and networking opportunities with the world's development community.

Website: www.zunia.org

Catalogue of Poverty Networks

UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organisations. **Website:** www.undp-povertycentre.org/povnet.do

Connections for Development (CfD)

CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organisation committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organisations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest – collectively "our world".

Website: www.cfdnetwork.co.uk

Development Crossing

Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable

development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

Website: www.developmentcrossing.com

DevelopmentAid.org

The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.

Website: www.developmentaid.org

dgCommunities on the Development Gateway (now Zunia.org)

dgCommunities, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.

Website: <http://topics.developmentgateway.org>

Diaspora African Forum

This Forum exists "to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent". We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa's development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.

Website: www.diasporafricanforum.org

Business Planet: a new data map on Entrepreneurship

Business Planet, an interactive Google map, now includes data on new business creation around the world. Measures of entrepreneurial activity are based on the number of total and newly registered corporations. Click on color markers to learn more about each country.

Website: <http://rru.worldbank.org/businessplanet/default.aspx?pid=8>

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

- [Africa Recruit Job Compendium](#)
- [African Union](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [Child Fund International](#)
- [ECOWAS](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Internews](#)
- [IREX](#)
- [International Organization for Migration](#)
- [Oxfam](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UNOCHA\)](#)
- [UN Jobs.org](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [The Development Executive Group job compendium](#)
- [Trust Africa](#)
- [UN Jobs](#)
- [UN Careers](#)
- [UNDP jobs](#)
- [UNESCO](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [World Bank](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund](#)
- [Third Sector](#)



Please feel free to send your comments, feedback and/or suggestions to:
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